Cost of Production of Steel

*49. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rapid cost escalation is steadily making the steel industry un-competitive and forcing it out of the domestic and export markets;

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures showing the cost of production of steel in India *vis-a-vis* the other major steel producing countries; and

(c) what are the main factors to which the higher cost of production of steel in India is attributable and what steps have been taken to reduce the cost of production and to make Indian steel competitive both in domestic and export markets?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) No authentic information on the cost of production of steel in other countries is available. It is, therefore, not possible to compare the cost of production in these countries with India. However, domestic prices in India and in other major steel producing countries are comparable. Exports are made by other countries at prices which are considerably lower than the domestic prices in those countries. Since exports are not a regular feature of the Indian Steel Industry, there have been hardly any occasion for Indian Steel to compete internationally with steel exported by other countries.

(c) Factors responsible for the present level of production costs in India are mainly obsolete technology, poor quality of raw material, lack of sustained and adequate availability of power and continuous increase in the price of various inputs, such as coal, power, railway freight, etc. Steps taken by the main producers to contain the cost of production include raising capacity utilisation, increasing productivity, improving the product mix, introducing technological innovations including energy saving, bringing about improvement in process control, optimisation of captive power generation and improved maintenance and modernisation of equipment.

National Housing Policy

*50. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised the national housing policy; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a draft National Housing Policy has been prepared and sent to State Govts./Union Territory Administrations and interested individuals and organisations for their comments/views. It will be finalised after considering the comments/views received from all quarters.

Resale of Lands and Flats in DDA Colonies

*51. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken or propose to take measures to discourage the resale of land, built-up houses in Delhi Development Authority (DDA) colonies and flats in Group housing societies on the general power of attorney;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any action has so far been taken against any of the original allottees of plots/flats for selling plots/flats on premium on the general power of attorney; if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) The terms and conditions of allotment of land/flats by